This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-45 (canceled)

1 Claim 46 (previously presented): A method for filtering a
2 plurality of candidate search results to remove
3 near-duplicates, the method comprising:
4   a) for one of the plurality of candidate search
5   results, determining whether the one candidate search
6   result is a near-duplicate of another of the plurality
7   of candidate search results by
8   1) comparing a cluster identifier of the one
9   candidate search result with a cluster identifier
10   of the other candidate search result, and
11   2) if the cluster identifiers of the one and the
12   other candidate search results match, then
13   concluding that the one candidate search is a
14   near-duplicate of the other candidate search
15   result; and
16   b) in response to a determination that the one
17   candidate search result is a near-duplicate of the
18   other candidate search result, rejecting the one
19   candidate search result thereby defining a filtered
20   set of search results including only those of the
21   plurality of candidate search results that have not
22   been rejected.

1 Claim 47 (previously presented): A search filter for
2 processing a plurality of search results to remove
3 near-duplicates, the search filter comprising:

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4   a) a near-duplicate determination facility for
5   determining, for one of the plurality of candidate
6   search results, whether the one candidate search
7   result is a near-duplicate of another of the
8   plurality of candidate search results, and wherein
9   the near-duplicate determination facility includes a
10   comparison facility for comparing a cluster
11   identifier of the one candidate search result with a
12   cluster identifier of the other candidate search
13   result, and wherein if the cluster identifiers of
14   the one candidate search result and the other
15   candidate search result match, then it is concluded
16   that the one candidate search result and the other
17   candidate search result are near-duplicates; and
18   b) a filter for rejecting the one candidate search
19   result if it is determined that the one candidate
20   search result is a near-duplicate of the other
21   candidate search result and passing the one
22   candidate search result if it is not determined that
23   the one candidate search result is a near-duplicate
24   of the other candidate search result, thereby
25   defining a filtered set of search results including
26   only those of the plurality of candidate results
27   that have not been rejected by the filter.

Claims 48-67 (canceled)

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